

Twitter Talk:



A "Tweet" is a term for a post or status update.

Twitter users add to their feeds. Because they are limited to 140 characters, tweets often include links to more detailed information. It is common practice for Twitter users to "Re-Tweet" updates they enjoy or feel should be shared with others who follow their feed.



The @ symbol is how Twitter has chosen to identify their users. If you have a twitter account (also known as a twitter handle), you will have an @ in front of it. For example, my handle is @brantnyberg. (feel free to follow me!)



The symbol #, called a "hash-tag" is the way Twitter groups or categorizes tweets. This allows users to search by keyword and follow specific topics, creating real time conversations. Users place hash-tags in front of events, groups, TV shows, movies, themed discussions, world events, and more.

Can Twitter make your classroom a better place?

This is the age of Twitter. In the five years since it was founded, Twitter's popularity



has increased exponentially. People seem to be using it everywhere: reporting the news, updating sporting events, expanding business, and marketing their brands. Even educators are discovering ways to harness this powerful tool. So, exactly how are teachers using Twitter in their classrooms?

- Keep parents in the loop
- Document classroom learning
- Connect with mentors
- Communicate with peers, experts, eyewitnesses around the world
- Share and document research
- See classroom reminders
- Ask questions about what you are wondering about
- Share links to student work to encourage authentic feedback
- Gather real world data
- Use twitpic to share images showing a learning moment in the classroom

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Who to follow?

@Ed_Leadership—A magazine for educators by educators.

@web20classroom—Award winning social media specialist Steven Anderson posts daily about the educational application of technology.

@teachercorner—Provides free resources to teachers, students and parents.

@DiscoveryEd—Bring the world of discovery into your classroom and ignite your student's natural curiosity.

What the research says about Twitter:

For Students...

- ⇒ Twitter has a positive effect on student engagement and grades.
- ⇒ Twitter promotes active learning as well as time on task is.

For Teachers...

- ⇒ Twitter increases the ability to respond to student learning needs..
- ⇒ Twitter promotes professional development through collaboration.

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